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Yellow fever at Progreso.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D. C., July 26, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to apprise you of the receipt of a telegram from Edward H. Thompson, consul of the United States at Merida (Progreso), Mexico, dated July 25, which reads as follows:

Steamship *Transit* clears to-day, Mobile; of the 2 cases yellow fever reported in dispatch, 1 dead, 1 convalescent. No new cases in my district.

Respectfully, yours,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Yellow fever condition at Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, July 20, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the week ended to-day (20th) shows a decided improvement in the fever situation. For the week there have been 40 new cases and 17 deaths, a decrease of 30 per cent from the week before. The mortality in the early part of the epidemic was more than 70 per cent of the cases reported, and as the fever advanced the percentage diminished, June having a fraction over 40 per cent, but during the past three weeks the percentage has reached 43 per cent and a fraction.

The shipping continues free from infection. Two cases were brought ashore from one of the dredges that is working within a stone's throw of many of the vessels. This dredge has been infected for some time, and I have asked the quarantine officer to have her disinfected and fumigated as a precautionary measure. I was assured that it would be done immediately.

There have been a number of cases of dysentery in the shipping, and upon investigation it was determined that it was caused by the fresh meat furnished from shore. Some vessels used condensed water, others had a drinking supply from English and United States ports, while others used the water from Vera Cruz, and rain water. The variety of sources of the water excluded that as a cause, and the only thing that was common to all the sick was the beef. I have heard no complaints from that source ashore, so I think that the change from the salt to the fresh meat was the cause. The cases were quickly cured with a dose of oil followed up with an opiate.

Dr. Del Rio, an expert, who is a member of the Vera Cruz quarantine board, and who has just returned from the Isthmus, where he has been investigating the fever situation, reports that there is no epidemic in that locality; the 2 cases that existed were brought from Vera Cruz.

Respectfully, yours,

SAML. H. HODGSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

PERSIA.

Report of plague at Bushire, Persia, and Bassorah, Turkey.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Teheran, Persia, June 19, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a communication I have just this moment received from the Persian ministry of foreign affairs regarding the public health of Bushire.

Some days ago a report reached Teheran that a British Indian subject had died of bubonic plague at Bassorah on the Tigris. This news has caused considerable anxiety in official circles in Teheran, and a meeting of the sanitary council was ordered to be convened to devise means for establishing quarantine stations at Persian ports on the Persian Gulf. The inclosed notice is the result. Bassorah is the Tigris landing where steamships from Europe and India discharge their cargoes for Bagdad and other inland places. Two or three lines of steamers call there regularly at stated intervals, though not all of them directly from Bombay. This particular case, if correctly reported, was probably brought by one of the ships of the British Steam Navigation Company, which are the principal carriers for the Gulf.

It has been proposed that the quarantine be regulated by the sanitary council, but I am very doubtful whether either officers or funds sufficient for the purpose will be found, or whether men, if provided, would be of any practical use.

I will communicate to the Department any further information I may receive on the subject.

Respectfully, yours,

JOHN TYLER,
Vice-Consul-General, in Charge.

[Inclosure—Translation.]

Copy of telegraphic report of the sanitary condition of Bushire.

JUNE 16, 1899.

On this 5th instant (5th of Safar—14th of June), thank God, not an individual of the population of Bushire has died of this disease (plague). On the 6th (Safar) only 1 woman of 60 years of age died from natural causes in this city. There is nothing of importance to be added.

Sealed by the Mushir-ul-Mulk, acting foreign minister.

JOHN TYLER,
Translator.

The honorable the ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

SAN SALVADOR.

No yellow fever at La Libertad.

UNITED STATES CONSULAR AGENCY,
La Libertad, July 9, 1899.

SIR: Acting upon instructions of the third assistant secretary, I have the honor to inform you that yellow fever does not exist at this port at present, and the surrounding country is perfectly healthy.

Respectfully, yours,

ALFRED COOPER,
United States Consular Agent.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.